

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (canceled).

14 (currently amended). The combination of any of claims 13, 15 or 16, wherein one or more tiles are supported on the preformed, self-supporting article.

15 (new). In combination, a base and a preformed, self supporting article supported directly on the base, the base comprising a cabinet style base with vertical walls configured with an opening between the vertical walls and the preformed, self supporting article resting directly on the vertical walls in a substantially horizontal orientation and covering the opening between the vertical walls, the preformed, self supporting article comprising a mixture that includes cement, expanded polystyrene and water.

16 (new). The combination of claim 15, wherein the self-supporting, preformed article comprises a cured member that includes an expanded polystyrene foam backer.

17 (new). The combination of any of claims 15 or 16, wherein the preformed, self-supporting article comprises a formed article formed from a mixture having a formulation with the following ratio of materials: 14 cu feet of small expanded polystyrene beads, 230 pounds Portland cement, 70 pounds fly ash, 18 gallons water, and a selected amount of reinforcement.

18 (new). The combination of claim 17, wherein the preformed, self-supporting article has the following relative dimensions: 48 inches length, 25 inches wide and 1.5 inches thick.